

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SIGNIFICANT REPORTING IN PRESS OF WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 30 (NOT CONNECTED WITH MOSCOW TRIP).

NO. 13

WASHINGTON POST

1. "SUCCESSION IN KREMLIN" -- COLUMN BY VICTOR ZORZA SPECU-
LATES THAT VANCE MISSION TO MOSCOW MAY BE LAST CHANCE TO
RESTORE PROCESS OF IMPROVING EAST-WEST RELATIONS. WHETHER
IT IS LAST CHANCE DEPENDS ON HOW LONG BREZHNEV HAS LEFT.

EVERY PREVIOUS SUCCESSION IN THE USSR HAS INVOLVED A POWER
STRUGGLE, AND, IF THIS HOLDS TRUE NEXT TIME, ZORZA FEELS
THAT SOVIET WILL BE UNABLE TO PURSUE ANY SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN
POLICY INITIATIVES. FURTHERMORE, A NEW LEADERSHIP WILL BE
UNLIKELY TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCES-
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SIONS FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AT LEAST.

ZORZA CLAIMS THAT REALITY IS NOT AS EITHER HAWKS OR DOVES
ON EITHER SIDE SAY IT IS: SALT IS NOT GOING TO BREAK DOWN.
BUT, IF MOMENTUM IS NOT REGAINED, THE RESULTS ARE THE
SAME. PROGRESS CAN TAKE PLACE ONLY IF ADMINISTRATION TAKES
INTO ACCOUNT KREMLIN'S HAWK/DOVE SITUATION, AND GETS A GOOD

SALT AGREEMENT WITH BREZHNEV BEFORE HE GOES.

2. "THREE NATIONALISTS EXPECTED TO SEE CASTRO IN ANGOLA". ROBIN WRIGHT REPORTS FROM LUSAKA THAT THREE LEADING BLACK NATIONALISTS FROM RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA LEFT LUSAKA FOR ANGOLA, REPORTEDLY FOR A MEETING WITH FIDEL CASTRO. MEANWHILE, THEIR WHITE "COUNTERPARTS" (SMITH AND VORSTER) HELD A SUMMIT IN CAPETOWN.

AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PODGORNÝ, LEADERS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT NETO. PRESENCE OF CUBAN OFFICIALS AT PRESS CONFERENCE LED TO SPECULATION OF THE CASTRO MEETING.

BOTH MEETINGS, BLACK AND WHITE, ARE RESPONSES TO THE TOURS OF CASTRO AND PODGORNÝ. IN CASE OF WHITE, IT IS ANTI-COMMUNISM THAT IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST BONDS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

3. "DATA REMAINS SCANT ON KATANGAN ATTACK IN REMOTE ZAIRE AREA". DAVID LAMB OF LA TIMES REPORTS FROM KINSHASA THAT SIGNIFICANT FACTS ABOUT KATANGAN INVASION OF SHABA REMAIN LARGELY A MYSTERY.

INVADERS HAVE NO ONE SPEAKING FOR THEM. GOVT IS PROVIDING LIMITED INFORMATION, AT BEST. THIS IS MOST LIKELY DUE TO LACK OF INFORMATION RATHER THAN WITHHOLDING. JOURNALISTS ' ARE FORBIDDEN TO TRAVEL TO FRONT. WELL-CONNECTED WESTERN EMBASSIES ARE ALSO BEMOANING LACK OF INFORMATION. THEY SAY UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS UNDERSCORES CONSTRAINTS PLACED ON CIA ACTIVITIES PLACED BY CONGRESS SINCE ANGOLA CIVIL WAR ENDED.

KINSHASA IS AN ACTIVE CIA STATION, BUT NO U.S. AGENTS ARE OPERATING IN CONTESTED AREA. INSTEAD, INTELLIGENCE IS GATHERED FROM LESS RELIABLE ZAIREAN CONTACTS.

ALTHOUGH FIGHTING HAS DIMINISHED, U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS STILL VIEW SITUATION AS GRAVE, AND POINT OUT DANGERS IF SHABA SHOULD BE SPLIT OFF.

ZAIRE IS HOPING THAT NIGERIA'S INITIATIVES WILL SOLVE CRISIS, ESPECIALLY SINCE ITS ARMY HAS NOT GIVEN A GOOD ACCOUNT OF ITSELF.

4. "CARTER PICKS MANSFIELD AS JAPAN ENVOY". DON OBERDORFER AND RICHARD WEINTRAUB REPORT FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS: MANSFIELD TO JAPAN; FORMER PRINCETON PRESIDENT ROBERT GOHEEN TO INDIA, AND GEORGE VEST TO PAKISTAN.

NEW YORK TIMES

1. "CAMBODIA AGAIN SPURNS U.S. OVERTURE FOR RELATIONS".

KENRY KAMM REPORTS FROM RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN, THAT CAMBODIA HAS REJECTED A U.S. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF CONTACT.

SPECIFICALLY, CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR REFUSED TO SEE A U.S. OFFICIAL FROM USLO IN PEKING. A FORNMIN STATEMENT WAS DEUIVERED TO KAMM IN RAWALPINDI AFTER HIS REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH IENG SARY WAS TURNED DOWN. STATEMENT UNRE-SERVEDLY EXCORIATED THE U.S.

2. "CARTER AUTHORIZED DOLLARS 2 BILLION IN SALES OF ARMS ABROAD". DAVID BINDER REPORTS THAT WHITE HOUSE HAS ANNOUNCED APPROVAL OF ARMS AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION ITEMS OVER-UNCLASSIFIED

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SEAS.

APPROVAL TODAY CONCERNED "NON-CONTROVERSIAL" SALES, ACCORD-ING TO A STATE DEPT OFFICIAL. ACCORDING TO WHITE HOUSE, NO DECISION ON CONTROVERSIAL SALES WILL BE MADE UNTIL AN INTERAGENCY REVIEW IS COMPLETED AND ADMINISTRATION ADOPTS AN ARMS SALE POLICY.

WASHINGTON STAR

1. OLIPHANT CARTOON. OLIPHANT'S CARTOON TODAY SHOWS A LARGE DOOR, LABELED "SALT II". A SMALL CYRUS VANCE IS SHOWN WITH ONE FOOT INSIDE THE DOOR. VANCE IS SHOWN WRITING ON A PIECE OF PAPER, A DOVE PERCHED ON HIS BRIEFCASE AT HIS SIDE.

THE CAPTION: "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT. HAVE FOOT IN DOOR. PLEASE GO EASY ON DISSIDENT STATEMENT OR I COULD LOSE FOOT. CYRUS."

THE TWO SMALL FIGURES IN CORNER ARE SAYING: "WITH ONE FOOT HE'D JUST WALK AROUND IN CIRCLES."

2. EDITORIAL -- "DETENTE WITH VIETNAM"

THE STAR NOTES IN A NEUTRAL MANNER CURRENT STATE OF U.S.-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS. IN STAR'S OPINION, ISSUES OF REPATRI-ATION OF MIA REMAINS AND REPARATIONS ARE RBOU TO SUBSIDE. EXPECTED RENEWAL OF DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS NEXT MONTH WILL BE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. TWO COUNTRIES, STAR FEELS, HAVE CURRENT INTERESTS THAT SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER PAST

BATTLES.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS FREE TO DO WHAT IS BEST TO DO
NOW IN RELATION TO VIETNAM. OPENING MOVES ARE ENCOURAGING
CONCLUDED THE STAR.

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

1. EDITORIAL -- "TREADING GINGERLY WITH CUBA".

THE MONITOR FEELS THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS CANNOT
COME WITHOUT A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE MORE WORRISOME ASPECTS
OF CUBA, ITS REVOLUTIONARY AMBITIONS ABROAD AND OPPRESSIONS
AT HOME.

2. "ISRAELI AIDES MUFFLE WAR DRUMS". FRANCIS OFNER

REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM THAT HIGH ISRAELI SOURCES FEEL THERE
IS NO IMMINENT DANGER OF WAR WITH ARAB STATES. SOURCES
FEEL NEED TO CALM AIR AFTER SEVERAL MILITARY CORRESPONDENTS
PUBLISHED ANALYSES SHOWING THAT EGYPT IS PREPARING FOR WAR.

CHRISTOPHER

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